

To:

Authorized Representative

From:

Ashley McGrath, NAEP State Coordinator
amcgrath@mt.gov, (406) 444 -3450

Subject: 2015 NAEP Assessment: «District_Name»'s Sampled Schools

Dear Authorized Representative,

This communication is to alert you that Montana will once again participate in the 2015 administration of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). I am pleased to notify you that # schools have been selected to participate in NAEP, which is conducted every two years. NAEP is the largest nationally representative measure of student achievement across the country. Selected schools represent schools across Montana and the nation, and their participation provides NAEP with an accurate and representative picture of student performance. Montana's participation rate has always been exemplary, and we look forward to maintaining that in 2015. «District_Name» will play an important role by participating, and I hope that we will have your full support to make this a meaningful experience for schools and students.

Schools in the NAEP sample are selected using a [rigorous scientific methodology](#) to assure that the pool of students who are assessed is a true reflection of Montana's statewide student enrollment. NAEP results can then be generalized to the state as a whole and be compared to those of other states and jurisdictions. NAEP is widely respected as "the gold standard of educational assessments," with a trend line documenting student achievement over many decades. This precision is only possible due to a high level of participation by schools across the nation. National and state-level results will be released as [The Nation's Report Card](#). Other special studies may occur in a few schools as well.

From January 26 to March 6, 2015, NAEP will administer mathematics, reading, and science assessments at grades 4, 8, and 12. Selected schools are notified in advance so that principals can place the assessment window on their calendars and incorporate NAEP into the planned school program. A few additional schools within «District_Name» may be selected for the NAEP 2015 assessments later this summer. I have attached «District_Name»'s list of selected schools and an endorsement of NAEP by State Superintendent Denise Juneau for your convenience. As in previous years, NAEP contract staff, consisting of locally hired Montanans, will administer the assessment, bring all necessary materials, and provide significant support to schools.

Please place the NAEP assessment window (January 26 to March 6, 2015) on your district test calendar. For additional information, please visit the NAEP website at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard>. Principals will receive their scheduled assessment dates in late July and I will work with schools to revise the dates if they conflict with other events already scheduled. You may also contact me directly via

e-mail at amcgrath@mt.gov or by telephone at (406) 444-3450. Your questions are always welcome.

There are several links below where you can access information about NAEP. Your support is vital in our efforts to measure what Montana students know and can do.

Thank you!

Ashley McGrath, NAEP State Coordinator

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

Montana Office of Public Instruction

PO Box 202501

Helena, MT 59620-2501

Phone: (406) 444 - 3450

Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

E-mail: amcgrath@mt.gov

NAEP Wiki: <http://opi.mt.gov/groups/montananaep/>

NAEP Website: <http://opi.mt.gov/Reports&Data/NAEP.html>

Enclosures:

List of District Schools Selected for NAEP

[Memorandum from Denise Juneau](#)

[Facts for Districts](#)

[NAEP School Selection](#)

[NAEP Tools and Applications](#)

[An Introduction to NAEP](#)

CC: District Testing Director